REMARKS

The Office action mailed May 7, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-71 has been reviewed. In view of the above amendments and the following "Remarks", Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-71 have been cancelled. Claims 72-108 are new and have been added to distinctly claim the subject matter, and exclude any non-statutory matter described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the office action. The claims were cancelled and rewritten based on the review described in the office action, and provide a clearer understanding of the elements being claimed. Support for the new claims are within the current specification.

Tagawa was cited to reject Claims 1-8, 25, 26, 30-33, 36, 47-59 as teaching a Seamless User/service Reservation Network, a means for generating a User Input, a means for generating a Vendor Service Input, and means for receiving and processing the user and vendor service inputs. In response to the rejections, Claims 1-8, 25, 26, 30-33, 36, 47-59 have been cancelled to avoid anticipation from the prior art.

Flake et al. was cited to reject Claims 19-24 as being obvious, unpatentable material. Flake teaches an Input Terminal, a Vendor Service Input Device, a formatted protocol, and an output terminal. In response to the rejections noted, Claims 19-24 have been cancelled.

Germain was cited to reject claims 37-41 as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). He teaches a Time Reservation Network, receiving an input transaction, processing the

input transaction, and establishing a time reservation. In response to the rejection, Claims 37-41 have been cancelled.

Germain was cited in view of Tagawa to reject claims 9-17, 27-29, 34, 35, 42-46, 60-66 based on obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Tagawa teaches a Second Computer Processor, the user of the Internet, the user of Kiosks, processing the transaction/preparing the result of the transaction, and plural servers in regards to a regional reservation center. In response to the rejections, Claims 9-17, 27-29, 34, 35, 42-46, 60-66 have all been cancelled.

The present invention provides a golf tee-time reservation system that comprises real-time concurrent processing. All other known prior art reservation systems/networks utilize a dependent database for retrieving and scheduling tee-time transactions. Real-time concurrent processing provides immediate processing of transactions for scheduling a tee-time. Support for this claimed technique can be found in the specifications (application, [page 8, lines 18-20], [page 10, lines 8-19]). The subject invention permits tee-time information to be retrieved by systematically extracting the information and displaying it to the user without delays or lag times from separate hardware and database components.

In Tagawa, the network reservation system is different in that it provides an electronic self-service travel agent utilizing remote kiosks to reserve travel reservations (airline, car rental, travel, etc.). The system is a querying system that queries information from a user and retrieves the available requests from a database (Tagawa, [column 2, row 41-43 and rows 65-67], [column 4, rows 6-14], [column 272, row 1]). The querying system mentioned is aging technology that totally depends upon an inventory database for retrieving information. In

another aspect of the present invention, the seamless network discussed within the office action is interpreted differently than what is being claimed. Tagawa describes a system that is deployed around the country/world with scheduled information stored in a regional reservation center (Tagawa, [column 8, lines 55-67], [column 9, lines 1-35]). The network may be interpreted as being seamless in that it provides a remotely connected network (WAN or MAN), but differs in that, each of the different reservation centers are networked internally to communicate on the same claimed proprietary system.

In the present invention, each golf course operates independently from the other, whereby no relationship exists between networking, computer hardware, communication protocols, or software applications. The present invention is novel in that it provides a true seamless network coupling all non-related golf reservation systems/networks into a single golf course reservation system/network regardless of the hardware, software, or protocols used. It provides the translation of differing protocols in order to communicate a tee-time request from any one of the independent networks (application, page 12, line 17-19). In contrast, Tagawa's system is a reservation system comprised of reservation information stored within one large system. In order for the system to stay organized, the system is decentralized into regional reservation centers for storing information in a regional manner (Tagawa, column 9, lines 17-25). The present invention does not require separate regional reservation centers in order to communicate to remotely separated golf course reservation systems.

In yet another differing aspect of the present invention, the present invention provides a real-time reservation network that utilizes a multi-threading technique. This technique provides immediate processing of transactions for the user (application, [page 8, lines

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18-20], [page 10, lines 8-19]). A system database is not required for retrieving a tee-time request, and a database is only provided for storing user schedule information at the end of a transaction.

In Flake et al., the travel management system described utilizes a relational database as the retrieval and storage method for obtaining information (Flake et al., [column 2, lines 9-36]). The present invention is not dependent on a database for retrieving and viewing tee-time requests and schedules. Again, the present invention provides a real-time seamless reservation system that functions immediately with differing golf reservation networks using multi-thread processing (application, [page 10, lines 17-19]). This distinct and novel technique provides a new system and method over the prior art for reserving a tee-time request.
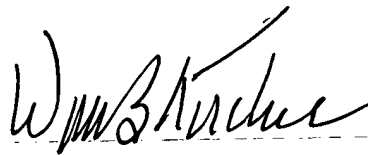
In Germain, the prior art describes a system and method for compiling and analyzing golf play information. This includes scheduling a tee-time for a particular golf courses network (Germain, [column 172, lines 47-67], [column 12, lines 1-8]), but mentions nothing about a seamless real-time network with various golf reservation networks linked to one another throughout the country or world. In view of the art, the present invention differentiates itself by providing a real-time, seamless network that links golf reservation networks into a common network.

Based on the foregoing, it is submitted that the Applicants' invention as defined by claims 72-108 is patentable over the references of record, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance this application to issue. This should be considered a complete response to the Examiner's Office action dated May 7, 2003.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2112. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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